

SECRET [REDACTED]

25X1

30 November 1971

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Briefing of Senate Armed Services Committee on  
Central Intelligence Agency Operations in Laos

1. On 5 October 1967, CIA Director Helms, accompanied by Messrs. Theodore Shackley, [REDACTED] and John Warner, met with the Senate Armed Services Committee where Mr. Shackley briefed the Committee on the war in Laos and CIA's involvement therein.

25X1

2. Present from the Committee were:

John Stennis (D., Miss.), Chairman  
Stuart Symington (D., Mo.)  
Henry M. Jackson (D., Wash.)  
Howard W. Cannon (D., Nev.)  
Thomas J. McIntyre (D., N.H.)  
Harry F. Byrd (D., Va.)  
Daniel B. Brewster (D., Md.)  
James B. Pearson (R., Kans.)  
John G. Tower (R., Texas)  
Jack Miller (R., Iowa)  
Peter H. Dominick (R., Colo.)

3. Committee staff present were:

William Darden  
T. Edward Braswell  
Charles Kirbow  
Gordon Nease

4. Senator Symington opened the meeting by saying he had heard this briefing during his recent trip to Southeast Asia (when he visited Vientiane in mid-September 1967), and thought it would be helpful if the full Committee got the benefit of it.

SECRET [REDACTED]

25X1

SECRET [REDACTED]

25X1

5. Mr. Shackley then delivered the briefing, which covered the following points:

- a. Background and origins of the fighting in Laos.
- b. Current strength and status of opposing forces.
- c. Importance of Laos to U.S. security, and U.S. policy objectives in Laos.
- d. Size and deployment of CIA contingent in Laos.
- e. CIA paramilitary program in Laos.
- f. Strength, composition, and deployment of CIA-supported paramilitary forces in Laos.
- g. Other CIA activities in Laos.

6. At the close of the briefing, Senator Symington asked Mr. Shackley about the cost of the CIA program in Laos. Mr. Shackley indicated that the Agency budget for Laos for [REDACTED] Senator Symington congratulated the Agency on conducting this large-scale effort in Laos at an annual cost of less than the cost of the Vietnam war for a single day.

25X1

7. On 16 July 1968, a film clip portraying Agency paramilitary operations in Laos was shown to a joint meeting of the Agency Armed Services and Appropriations Committees chaired by Senator Russell. After the showing, Senator Symington commented that the U.S. was getting better results from [REDACTED] being spent in Laos than from all the money being put into Vietnam. Senator Russell concurred.

25X1

SECRET [REDACTED]

25X1